

Editor DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D.

Assistant to the Editor
ROBERT F. EDWARDS

For information on preparation of manuscript, see advertising page 2

Policy Committee-Editorial Board

JOHN G. MORRISON, M.D., San Leandro MALCOLM C. TODD, M.D., Long Beach WILLIAM F. QUINN, M.D., Los Angeles JOSEPH F. BOYLE, M.D., Los Angeles HAROLD KAY, M.D., Oakland HELEN B. WEYRAUCH, M.D., San Francisco DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D., San Francisco

EDITORIAL

A Successful Annual Meeting

THE EDUCATIONAL AND the business functions of the 96th Annual Session of the California Medical Association were carried forward in a thoroughly professional manner at the meeting held 15 to 19 April in Los Angeles.

Outstanding guest speakers, whose presentations were centered on Advances in Diagnostic Technique, the theme of this year's scientific sessions, drew good audiences even though the total physician registration at the meeting was less than in previous years. Attendance may have been affected somewhat by the weather (which in Southern California may be described as Oregonian) and by the fact that the CMA gathering followed closely upon other meetings of similar quality that were held in California.

The House of Delegates carried on its business with extraordinary harmony and dispatch, dealing with 108 resolutions and electing officers and members of the Council. Among important actions, the House:

- Set dues at \$90, unchanged from the present rate.
- Reaffirmed the previously expressed opinion of the majority of the House of Delegates favoring changes in laws governing therapeutic abortion when it defeated a resolution that would have had the CMA take no official stand on recently proposed legislation on this subject in California.
- Adopted a resolution encouraging communication between the CMA and the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives.
 - · Commended California Blue Shield for its re-

sponsiveness to physician problems and its accomplishments in implementing Medi-Cal.

- Endorsed efforts to repeal certification and recertification provisions of P.L. 89-97.
- Encouraged efforts to eliminate Medicare's requirement for three days in hospital before admission to an extended care facility.
- Reaffirmed the stand that chiropractic services should not be covered under Medi-Cal or other government programs.
- Adopted a resolution asking the CMA to review P.L. 89-97 regulations concerning clinical laboratories operated by qualified physicians; and affirming that clinical laboratory services provided by a physician, even though he provides no other services to the patient, are medical services quite as much as are similar services rendered by physicians providing other services, and should be regulated in the same manner as all other medical services.
- Directed the Commission on Medical Services to develop and promote the use of a standard reporting form for private and government thirdparty payment programs.
- Recommended that the profession take the same interest and initiative in staff activities of nursing homes and extended care facilities as it has found desirable and necessary in acute hospitals.
- Called for CMA to take all possible steps to eliminate the drug formulary under the Medi-Cal program.
- Urged continuing emphasis and educational efforts on the need for physicians to include necessary identifying information on direct bills to Medicare patients.
- Favored supporting appropriate legislation requiring pasteurization of all market milk sold for human consumption.